



BEAM

JALPAIGURI GOVT. ENGINEERING COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

January, 2016

Rs. 5

From The Secretary, JGECAA.....

A very happy New Year to the alumni members and their families. Let us all pledge to begin this New Year with added commitment towards our alma mater. 2015 unfolded a plethora of events before us: the year brought in some particular disappointments to us, the Indians. We have a deep financial crisis looming large over our lives and with the constant fear of terrorist attacks striking anytime, anywhere, we are definitely on unsafe grounds. But life moves on and this time too it will. The New Year probably is here to remind us that new times beckon us to move ahead on the journey of life with renewed vigour and zest. We probably can leave the bad experiences behind by meeting old friends, spending time with the good memories and putting in efforts for creative purposes. Our alumni association gets together and the newsletter (BEAM) offers all of us a scope to utilize and understand the same. It is a worldly norm that someone old has to eventually leave to pave way for someone new to continue the task with a new vision and energy. Dhoni's retirement and captaincy of Virat Kohli that followed testify to the fact. With the same idea in mind, I as always, would request the younger people to come forward and contribute freely towards the cause of the alumni association. That will make our task easier as we eventually step down and you continue to take forward the causes of our brethren.

..... Arun Bandyopadhyay 73 M

Thus Spake



Dr. Jyotirmoy Jhampati is, at present, the Principal of Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College and the ex-officio Chairman of the alumni association. He is also an illustrious alumnus of the College (1975/E). In an imperturbable interview to **Subrata Sanyal**, he expresses his opinion and draws the road-map for future development of the College.

Beam : The College has passed more than three years since academic autonomy was granted to the College. Do you find any qualitative change in various academic aspects, vis-à-vis, time bound examination and result publication, students' academic performance, industry oriented course design, project orientation among the students?

Dr. Jhampati : Definitely, there has been a huge qualitative change in the various academic aspects, such as the reorientation of the syllabus, depending upon the needs of the industry, different professional examinations and modern incoming state of the art technologies. The results and schedule of examinations are strictly followed in accordance with the academic calendar prepared by the College Council before the starting of the semester. Collaborative projects with Jadavpur University, Rajabazar Science College are being implemented for the final year students from last year and this year, we are interested to incorporate Indian Statistical Institute, Baranagar, in the projects for the students of the final year.

Beam : The College started post-graduate courses in the departments of Electrical Engg and Mechanical Engg, a couple of years back. But hitherto the P.G. course in Civil Engineering has not been started. There are a number of aspirants among the graduates in civil engineering of this region who are not getting any scope for P.G. study in this College. How do you, as the Principal of this college, help them to make their dreams a reality?

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FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME :

3RD. JANUARY, 2016 : Annual Reunion & Function, Venue : Science City Auditorium (Mini), Kolkata ; Time : 11:00 Hrs.

[Whosoever passed from Jalpaiguri Govt Engg. College long back or in recent time, recapitulate their days in Jalpaiguri. Many of them even make this town their second home through marital relation. This fiction, to be published in a series, if the readers like, will surely put all of them in nostalgia---Editor]

BUDDING IT TO BLOSSOM

Subrata Sanyal (89E)

Waking a late-riser in the dawn of a late autumn day is itself a Herculean task for the parent. The air is misty with the droplets of dew sprinkling on the top of everything in the lawn, the unwilling sun is peeping hesitatingly at the eastern horizon, the flowers are to deceive the early flowers pickers and households are also to start the day early. That does not deter the Vaishnava chanters to come out en masse to observe their rituals in the holy month and even the sounds of percussions leave out a loving tone in the air.

Nevertheless, the day is an exceptional for Ajay who waited a long three months gestation time to find a heyday in his life to start. The result of the engineering entrance examination came out four months back and the counseling and official admission process also finished in August. All of the friends looking for opportunities in engineering courses in other colleges have by this time got admission and their experiences in early college days shared with him in the Puja vacation also put him in a situation of awe. Since the time Ajay has come across the atmosphere in other engineering colleges, he is a bit skeptical which may await him in ragging phases in his college. Being a local boy, he ought not to stay in the hostel and his acquaintances assured him that that phase won't be as rigorous as the hostel dwellers might have to face. That dwindling kept him in tension for the last couple of months, as he was passing through a leisure time without any serious business to concentrate upon. His mind is also put on the stress about the college he gets admission, as being located in a far-flung North Bengal town with little exposure to the industrial map of the country, a good number of aspirants preferred less important courses in the colleges around Calcutta rather than joining major stream in his college. On receiving the up-to-dates during these three months from his friend circle and even from the erstwhile school teachers, he could not enjoy his selection in engineering course. He is also off-beat to learn that the college has a nick-name, Jalu, christened an admixture of the short form of the town and a kind of dismay, even the on-going students maintained about the college. A couple of

times, he raised the point before his father, but Papa was consistent in his way of thinking, as he thinks that a successful career in his life does not depend upon the name of the college one is passing through, but the maximum level of acumen one can gather under the supervision of an able teacher. Anyway, Ajay was in a mind of mixed joy and sorrow and could not pass off in sound sleep. Mischievous dreams reined over him in the night with intermittent awakening. All the time, he peeped through the ventilator to find whether the night ended and early day-light pierced through the darkness.

By the time, mother enters into his room and starts calling him by name, he awoke and was getting ready to leave the bed, a situation astonishes the mother, so much, so that she passes on a joke by reciting a local proverb. Ajay finds hard to convince her that it is not the case, since his sleep broke out by the sound of opening the door. By a glance to the bed side watch, it is hardly 6 o'clock, he feels it was too early to leave the bed as he will to reach the college, along with his father, only by ten, a long four hours to pass on in the toilet and refreshment. While he is about to raise the mosquito-net to get into the bed, mother pulled his hand, saying,

'The grand-ma already started a special offering at the shrine and on her back to home, she will perform some rituals with Ajay as well, as it is a heyday for all of us. So, it is wise to start your brush and have bath early. I will go back to kitchen to find out what the cook is doing there. So, don't waste time and get ready soon.'

Ajay knows what grand-ma will do with him and he protests, 'What's the use of doing all these obsolete rituals ? I am neither going out for a long voyage, nor it is my birth day. It is just a day, common like others. Please tell her not to do such embarrassing.'

The tone of deliberation might be harsh, so mother gets offended and upset simultaneously and rushes out of the room to report it to Papa. Papa just returned from his morning walk, was up-beat as his friends unequivocally had confirmed that a civil engineering course from the local college had seen a series of renowned civil engineers, both on the state and other parts. They had even narrated the circumstances how an engineering college, purely on personal endeavour of renowned tea planters like Satyendra Prasad Roy and Birendra Chandra Ghosh, had come up in the state as the maiden venture. The local polytechnic was also an outcome of their initiative, which had seen the light of

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JECAA TO JGECAA- DOWN MEMORY LANE

Pradip Kumar Bhattacharyya (66C)

Recalling events after graduation 46 years ago becomes difficult as too many memories of a very long period sometimes blur my vision. Even though the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of our Alma Mater still dominates the memory of all of us who had witnessed the event in person, it is sad that not all who had witnessed the glorious event are in this world today.

However with blessings of Late S.P. Roy (Former MP), Late B.C. Ghosh (Former Industrialist), Late P.C. Sen (Former Chief Minister, West Bengal), Late Prof. N.C. Bose (Founder Principal), we began this journey in 1961 and with tremendous struggle and difficulty completed the coveted programme leading to Bachelor's in Engineering (B.E) in 1966.

While the course curriculum class materials and other references given to us helped in the preparation of Institution examinations, there had to be **another set of preparations** for each one of us, as our examinations were under University of Calcutta. In other words we had to go to BE College to collect their notes, materials, session works, etc. so that a reasonable level of preparation could be made for the University examinations!

However, in our Final year, the University of North Bengal came into its existence and we are relieved that our Institution preparations were sufficient for us to go through the examination in flying colours.

However, despite a golden handshake and a lot of good words from all our beloved faculty members and well-wishers in 1966, we had to face the toughest realities outside.

We discovered that despite our very high standards of teaching, large numbers of project works, designs and other assignments, the College and the then Department of Technical Education did not do their homework to declare the College at par with other Institutions. Even though these omissions and commissions were of bureaucratic nature, they created immense difficulty in our careers in the initial stages. Not being recognized by the Institution of Engineers, India (Equivalence), other professional societies, reluctance on the part of other premier Institutions in admitting us for M.E programme, were among many of our woes of that generation.

Apart from this, because of our location and communication gap, the Industry-Institution interaction process for our marketing and placement was not properly organized and mostly we survived on our own.

It is on this background, that we realized that there was a tremendous need of a proper forum and professional platform for the new Alumni members. Accordingly the first few

Thus Spake

Dr. Jhampati : Actually the civil engineering department had got the approval of GoWB as well as WBUT for the introduction of the PG course in civil engineering along with electrical and mechanical engineering. But at that time, the number of faculties in department of civil engineering was very poor. As a result, we could not start the P.G. course in civil engineering at that time. Now the faculty position has improved a lot in the department of civil engineering and we are processing to reopen the case again.

Beam : Under your able leadership, a lot of developments could be done and a few more are waiting in the pipeline, I believe. What are your future plans for the College, so that this College's name can be included among 'India Today's Best Engineering Colleges of the year' in near future?

Dr. Jhampati : The developments which have been started in the College in last six-seven years aim to develop this college as a technical university. The infrastructures which are not at par with the prime institutes are being developed and some are in the pipeline to make it a best college in the country.

Beam : There is a hope among the alumni-members of the College that one day, this college will be upgraded to the level of a University. Your comment please.

Dr. Jhampati : The existing infrastructures which have been developed and are in the pipeline focus the up-gradation of the college to the level of a university. Hence, the hope of the alumni-members will come true in coming one or two years.

Beam : Last question, but not the least in importance. What do you think about the qualitative level of the students of this college at present, while comparison is done with other leading engineering colleges of the Country? Do you think that there is a major difference between the academic and merit level between the students of your time and the present era?

Dr. Jhampati : I do believe that the quality of the students of this college is at par with any other leading institute of the country. Our alumni-members are positioned in very senior level in India and abroad, which will justify my statement. There is only one difference, which I feel, between the present and past students, is the lack of dedication and love for the college.



Photography : Subrata Sanyal (89/E)

This portfolio is exclusive to the contribution from the readers. Other than the common places of tourists' interest, there are a lot of untapped places, hitherto not familiar with the frequent travellers even. Through Beam, we shall try to highlight them. The contribution from you should include the place with direction to reach there, near by major town/ rail head, moderate accomodation facility available, best season to visit and a clear picture taken in digital format (with the mention of the model of camera). Please direct your contribution to the e-mail ID : beam_jgecaa@gmail.com. Please mention your name e-mail ID and cell phone number as well.

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JECAA TO JGECAA- DOWN MEMORY LANE

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batches, since 1966, combined to form the registered society 'JALPAIGURI ENGINEERING COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'.

Subsequently, the College had undergone a change of status from Sponsored College to Govt. Engineering College in 1968-69, after a lot of lobbying, agitation and persuasion at different levels.

So JECAA became JGECAA. The first Ad-hoc Executive Committee was formed in 1974-75 and subsequently it was regularised in 1974-75, with undersigned being elected as Founder President. As per constitution, the Principal was nominated as Chairman of the Alumni Association.

This forum provided an immense opportunity to maintain liaison with industries, PSUs, the Bureaucracy and many other organisations. In the initial few years, JGCCA had organised highly successful technical programmes Symposia, Colloquium, and Brain-storming sessions involving people of national importance who had actively participated and provided many suggestions for bringing JGEC to national level.

To increase participation of professional from other institutions, JGECCA organised debating competitions, school students' programmes for several years, to highlight the achievements of the Alumni Association members in multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary activities. During this period of time, numerous recommendations were prepared and submitted to appropriate authorities for considerations and implementations. Through the Alumni Association, their representation in the College governing body was achieved by Govt. order. Many positive recommendations were presented by the Alumni members in the governing body, which were highly appreciated by other members.

It is on this background that Alumni Association suggested improving the technical status of the Institute to national level by fitting in the priority approaches of North-Eastern regions with the development process of the Institution. The Alumni Association always strived to develop convergence of the views of the association and the Institution Authorities and met the highest level of decision makers in this regard several times. It is unfortunate that the tremendous achievements of the Alumni members of various generations, both at the national and international levels, could not percolate in the development process of the institution.

It is sincerely hoped that the present generation of Alumni Executive Body along with the local chapters will integrate their efforts in organising more and more technical activities, in collaboration with industrial and corporate leaders, bureaucrats, multilateral and bilateral agencies, so that the graduates coming out in the 21st century will feel the legacy and heritage of our Alumni Association.

LONG LIVE JGECCAA!

BUDDING IT TO BLOSSOM (Continued):

the day in 1958, as there had been no such diploma college in this entire region. So, once the college was set up, one of the first batch of the students enrolled included none other than one of the sons of Birendra Chandra Ghosh. From the very first day, a beam of experienced teachers enlightened the college.

So, the initial protest of Ajay does not work, even though he passes more than double time he normally takes in the toilet. As he emerges from the bathroom and enters into his room, he finds entire range of his extended family, ten in total from a nephew of three years old to eighty-six-years' old grand-ma, assemble with a low-tone whispering among them to highlight the rosy future of the first-ever member of the family to become an engineer. The surprising aspect of the stuffs they hold included newly stitched suit and a zodiac tie to fasten on. Ajay knew that maternal uncle had sent a gift for him, but had little knowledge about the attire that intended to. The grand-ma holds a bronze plate on her lap with auspicious lamp, curd and sandal-wood paste decorated with blessed flower.

'Go and put on shirt and pant first and then approach Papa to let you know how to fasten the tie. Papa is an expert in knotting the tie. Today is your first day in the college. So, dress up properly', mother asks.

'But Ma, I have not seen any student in the college in such formal attire. Mostly, they are found bicycling on D.B.C. Road in most casual dresses and in slippers on their feet. I won't wear suit and tie today, I don't like to be earmarked and subjected to ragging subsequently. Debasis told me that first impression is vital to evade tortuous ragging. Papa, why are you not convincing them? I don't like to be a joker there. I won't hear anything', Ajay leaves the room arrogantly, leaving a heavy sign thickening the air.

'This is the problem of modern boys, who don't like to hear the parents even. But, I don't think it will be wise to pressurize him any more', grand-ma opines, leading others present to accept it silently.

Within ten minutes, Ajay reappears with well-ironed shirt-pant, hair neatly combed with a Parkar pen in his pocket. Grand-ma put a pinch of curd on his fore-head with a mark of sandal-wood paste at its midst, offers arti and finally touches his cheek with her finger-tips. Now it is the turn of reassembly at the dining table, where Ajay sits before a full-course fish-meal, surrounded by the other members, who are also offered sweets brought from Kathaltala, specially ordered for the day.

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